Where they tried to send European Jews to:
Madagascar, South Africa, Rhodesia, Kenya,
British Guiana, Ethiopia, Libya, Egypt

Memorandum by the Under Secretary of State
October 25, 1937.

The Polish Ambassador called to see me this morning. He said that the President had asked him, during a recent conversation which the President had had with the Ambassador, to come to see me with regard to the problem of Jewish emigration from Poland.

The Ambassador stated that from the conversations which Colonel Beck had recently had with the leaders of the Zionist movement at Geneva, prospects for canalizing emigration from Poland to Palestine were discouraging, and that, while Poland would still continue to try to work out some plan for continued Polish emigration to Palestine as the basis for their present policy, his Government was very anxious to find other fields where Jewish emigrants from Poland could be settled. He said that the Polish Government had sent commissions to Madagascar, SouthAfrica, East Africa and Australia, but had been able to find no willingnesson the part of those governments to encourage Polish Jewish immigration.

history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1937v02/d434

The Ambassador in the United Kingdom
to the Secretary of State
London, August 31, 1938

I talked to him about the Jewish situation. He said he was not very well up on it except that Winterton6 had told him [apparent omission] do in Berlin about placing Jews in Rhodesia and Kenya, but just how many they cannot tell yet. He believes that as settlement is attempted on the Jews in Austria and Germany, other countries who want to get rid of their Jews will be encouraged to throw them out, hoping that America, England and France will find some way of taking care of them.

history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1938v01/d547

Memorandum of Conversation,
by the Under Secretary of State
November 17, 1938

The British Ambassador called to see me this morning. Sir Ronald Lindsay stated that he came with a formal communication from his Government in connection with the refugee question. The Ambassador said that he was quite familiar with this fact but that, of course, his Government had had just as much difficulty in convincing the British colonies and dominions of the need to agree to such plans as we ourselves would be faced with if we had to convince the authorities of the States of Nevada or Montana of the desirability of permitting part of their territory to be occupied by refugees. He stated, however, that his Government was now prepared to make a practical contribution, and he discussed with me at some length the territories which might be considered. He mentioned Northern Rhodesia, Kenya Colony, and British Guiana.

history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1938v01/d803

The Minister in Rumania
to the Secretary of State
Bucharest, August 23, 1940

He continued by remarking that Rumania this time was positively going to get rid of the surplus of Jews who had proved themselves undesirable. Having heard it said that Hitler had held out hope in some recent conversations with Rumanian officials in Germany that Madagascar would soon be available for the settlement of all surplus European Jews, I mentioned this report. The Prime Minister immediately corrected me by saying that it was Rhodesia and not Madagascar which was in the Fuehrer's mind as there was some gold there which would give them a welcome occupation.

history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1940v02/d894

The Consul General at Hamilton
to the Secretary of State
Hamilton, Bermuda, April 20, 1943

It was stated that the problem of Greek refugees at Cyprus was not immediately pressing because of the changed military situation, but that if possible at least 1,000 of the 5,000 now there should be removed in order provide for future contingencies and to make room for further refugees. The British delegation state that the military authorities object to the idea of bringing these people to Cyrenaica. However, Mr. Law agreed that the matter might be investigated by the Committee. It will also be recommended to the Committee that the possibilities of settlement near Dire Dawa in Abyssinia be investigated.

history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1943v01/d121

May 22, 1943

The settlement of Libya by Jewish refugees would undoubtedly meet hostile opposition from local Arabs and from the Arab and Moslem world in general. The Libyan Arabs would reject any settlement which would threaten their grazing land and facilitate the infiltration of European Jews into the cities.

The settlement of Jews in Libya would undoubtedly lead to protests throughout the Arab and Moslem world. Part of the Arab hostility to Jewish immigration into Palestine has been occasioned by fear that Jews desired to acquire domination of other Arab countries. The establishment of Jews in Libya with the aid of the United Nations would presumably be regarded by Arabs as an indication that those ambitions had received the support of the responsible United Nations, which already are believed by most Arabs to desire the creation of the feared Jewish State in Palestine

history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1943/d143

Memorandum by the Assistant Chief
of the Division of Near Eastern Affairs
October 15, 1943

This would open up Palestine to about 500,000 Jews, which is the upper figure cited by such careful students of the problem as Dr. Nelson Glueck, of European Jews who will have to be taken care of outside Europe. If that number cannot be absorbed quickly, temporary provision for them could be made in Libya, for example.

history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1943v04/d854

The Under Secretary of State
to the Secretary of State
May 22, 1944

The British Government has undertaken to move to Palestine any Jewish refugees coming from Europe via Turkey and is prepared to cooperate actively in any efforts to rescue refugees which will not redound to the benefit of the Axis. Should the number of refugees unexpectedly exceed this provision, they are confident of their ability to provide places of refuge in the Near East, although not necessarily in Palestine itself.

history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1944v03/d1

The Secretary of State
to the Ambassador in the United Kingdom
Washington, March 25, 1944

Finding of havens where refugees may remain for the duration of the war is one of the most pressing and immediate problems before the War Refugee Board. Tripolitania and Cyrenaica in the opinion of the Department and the Board might be suitable for this purpose. Tripolitania and Cyrenaica have been under consideration as havens ever since the Bermuda Conference at which it was specifically recommended that the British consider the admission of refugees to Cyrenaica. The establishing of refugee havens in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania is extremely important.

history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1944v01/d577

The Secretary of State
to the Chargé at Algiers (Chapin)
Washington, May 27, 1944

Tito has promised support in rescue of Hungarian Jews. It is essential that we do what we can to facilitate the escape of Jews today in Hungary in view of their plight. The crux of this matter is the finding of suitable places of removal for these refugees. The following should be borne in mind in this connection:

These refugees should be moved to camps in the Middle East in the largest numbers possible. Every effort to supply sufficient medical and other personnel is being made by UNRRA. Present plans to move as many Jewish refugees as possible should be carried out without delay. The establishment by the British, with our cooperation, of havens of refuge for these people in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica has been pressed by the Board for some time. To date there have been no results.

history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1944v01/d610

London, June 28, 1944

From the Ambassador in the United Kingdom (Winant)

To the Secretary of State

The British military authorities in the Middle East were willing and ready to accommodate 40,000 Yugoslav refugees in Egypt but as UNRRA has not yet been able to obtain the necessary medical staff the military authorities doubt that they can accommodate more than the 26,000 who have already arrived in Egypt. FO has therefore requested the European headquarters of UNRRA to expedite provision of medical staff.

history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1944v01/d636